REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 16, 22, and 24 are independent. Claims 14, 15, and 17 have been canceled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 4, 6, 16, and 22.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings filed on December 3, 2001, are accepted.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention as recited. Specifically, the claims have been amended to recite the steps performed by an application-independent interface (AII) to enable communication between a first distributed collaborating component and a second distributed collaborating component. More particularly, when the first distributed collaborating component needs a plurality of attributes associated with the server object from the second collaborating component, the first distributed collaborating component sends a usage specification to the AII. The usage specification includes the name of the server object requested by the first distributed collaborating component and a list of attributes of that server object that the first distributed collaborating component needs The usage specification specifies a particular (or a group of particular) server objects from which

the AII can fetch the plurality of attributes requested by the first distributed collaborating component (*see* Specification, page 6 for an example of a usage specification for a server object named 'employee'). Subsequently, the AII is configured to interpret the usage specification.

In addition, the AII uses the information obtained during the interpretation of the usage specification to fetch the server object from the second distributed collaborating component and obtain the plurality of attributes requested by the first collaborating component. Finally, the AII provides the first collaborating component with the requested attributes.

No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, on pages 6-7 of the Instant Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As suggested by the Examiner, independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite a "computer-implemented method" in the preamble. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 4 now recite a computer implemented process. Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 22, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,865 ("Sumsion") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,437,342 ("Marcos"). Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner refers to prior art reference "Allard" in the rejection of claim 5 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed September 7, 2005. However, as this reference is not listed on page 3, reference number 4 of the Office Action, Applicant has assumed that claim 5 is also rejected under Sumsion view of Marcos. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." (*See* MPEP §2143.03). Further, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." (*See* MPEP §2143.03). The Applicant respectfully asserts that the references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of amended independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Examiner admits that Sumsion fails to teach sending a usage specification as an argument (*see* Office Action mailed September 7, 2005, page 3). In addition, Applicant asserts that Sumsion fails to disclose or suggest a usage specification as recited in the amended independent claims. The Examiner cites column 11, lines 62-64 of Sumsion in asserting that Sumsion teaches a usage specification comprising a server object name and a list of attributes associated with the server object that are needed by a first distributed collaborating component. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The cited portion of Sumsion discloses that a network driver dispatches a request to request handler to access the desired server resource and return a reply to the network client process. It appears that the Examiner is equating the server resource of Sumsion with the usage specification of the claimed invention. However, Sumsion does not disclose or suggest that the *request* that is sent by the network driver *includes attributes* of the requested server resource (*i.e.*, a server object). Rather, Sumsion only discloses that a server resource is specified in the request. In contrast, the amended claim clearly recite that the usage specification that is sent by the first distributed collaborating component to the AII includes two distinct pieces of information: a server object name and a list of attributes associated with the server object. Sumsion clearly does not disclose this.

Further, because Sumsion fails to disclose or suggest that the usage specification includes a list of attributes associated with a server object, it follows that Sumsion fails to disclose or suggest that the list of attributes is fetched and provided by the AII to the first distributed collaborating component.

Moreover, Sumsion fails to teach an AII as recited in the claims. The amended claims recite that the AII is configured to receive the usage specification **and** interpret the usage specification to determine which attributes to fetch. The AII is outside of the server, and includes functionality to facilitate the communication between the client and the server (*i.e.*, the first distributed collaborating component and the second distribute collaborating component). The AII subsequently fetches the server object and the list of attributes from the second collaborating component and provides them to the first collaborating component.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the cited portion of Sumsion discloses that the network driver (231) receives the request and sends the request to request handler (230), both

of which are located on the *server* (*see* Sumsion, Figure 3A). In Sumsion, once the server resource is obtained from the server, the network driver then returns a response to the network client process on the client. In the claimed invention, the AII (*i.e.,* the component equivalent to the redirector (306) of Sumsion) performs the interpretation of the usage specification and the fetching of server objects and attributes from the second distributed collaborating component. Thus, Sumsion fails to disclose that the AII receives the usage specification, interprets the usage specification, and fetches the server object and attributes of the server objects from the second collaborating component.

Further, Marcos fails to disclose or suggest that which Sumsion lacks. Marcos is related to brokering object messages between object models. Specifically, the cited portion of Marcos discloses that a message is forwarded to a server object via *a plurality of intervening objects* on the server machine, which delays the creation of a server machine stack (*see* Marcos, col. 4, ll. 46-50). However, Marcos fails to disclose or suggest that the message is a usage specification comprising a server object name and a list of attributes associated with the server object. Further, Marcos fails to disclose or suggest that the message is used to fetch server object attributes by the mediating component and provide those attributes to an object that requested them. Rather, Marcos only discloses that the mediating object is configured to delay the creation of the machine stack such that only the server object that eventually receives the message creates the machine stack by placing the methods and arguments on the stack.

In view of the above, it is clear that both Sumsion and Marcos fail to disclose the limitations of the amended independent claim 1. Further, independent claims 4, 22, and 24 include similar allowable subject matter as amended independent claim 1. Thus, claims 1, 4, 22, and 24 are patentable over Sumsion and Marcos, whether considered separately or in

combination. Dependent claims 3, 5, and 26 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9, 12-21, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumsion in view of Marcos and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,798 ("Schofield"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, both Sumsion and Marcos fail to teach the limitations of amended independent claim 24. Further, independent claims 6 and 16 have been amended to include similar allowable subject matter and are therefore patentable over Sumsion and Marcos for at least the same reasons described above. Further, Schofield fails to supply that which Sumsion and Marcos lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Schofield solely for the purpose of teaching a "logic execution specification" (*see* Office Action mailed September 7, 2005, page 6). Thus, it is clear that none of Sumsion, Marcos, and Schofield, whether considered separately or in combination, render the amended independent claims 6, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 7-9, 12-21, and 23 are patentable over Sumsion, Marcos, and Schofield for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Sumsion, Marcos, Schofield, and Applicant Admitted Prior Art (APA). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that various combinations of one or more of four references have been used in rejecting the claims of the present application. The purported reconstruction of the claimed invention by reliance on such a large number of references is

not appropriate. It is abundantly clear that the Examiner, using the present application as a guide, has selected isolated features of the various relied-upon references to arrive at the limitations of the claimed invention. Use of the present application as a "road map" for selecting and combining prior art disclosures is wholly improper. *See* MPEP § 2143; *Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil*, 774 F.2d 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (stating that "[t]he invention must be viewed not with the blueprint drawn by the inventor, but in the state of the art that existed at the time"); *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (stating that "it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or 'template' to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious . . . . This court has previously stated that 'one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention.'"); *In re Wesslau*, 353 F.2d 238 (C.C.P.A. 1965) (stating that "it is impermissible within the framework of section 103 to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art").
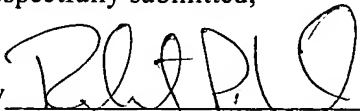
Further, as described above, none of Sumsion, Marcos, and Schofield disclose the limitations of amended independent claim 6. Further, APA fails to supply that which Sumsion, Marcos, and Schofield lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on APA solely for teaching "updating data in the server object and modifying the attribute of the server object" (*see* Office Action mailed September 7, 2005, page 8). Thus, independent claim 6 is patentable over Sumsion, Marcos, Schofield, and APA, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 10 and 11 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places

this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the

Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number

listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-

0591 (Reference Number 16159.023001).

Dated: December 7, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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